

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

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TO :
THRU :
FROM :

DATE: 8 March 1948

Authorization
File

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SUBJECT: Request for Approval of [] Language Lessons in the Field - []

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1. In compliance with the provisions of memorandum from the Executive Secretary dated 27 January 1947, subject: "Tuition Costs of Language School", and of General Vandenberg's memorandum to the ADSO dated 4 February 1947, subject: "Authority to Approve Payment of Tuition Expenses from Unvouchered Funds for CIG Employees Attached to the Office of Special Operations", it is hereby requested that approval be granted for [] to receive [] language instruction at the expense of this organization.

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2. While we have constantly striven to recruit qualified Intelligence Officers with previous knowledge of the language of the country of their assignment, two important factors have made this difficult: the limitations imposed upon personnel recruitment

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[] country. It has thus often been necessary for us to recruit Intelligence Officers who, well qualified in other respects, do not have the language necessary to ensure maximum operating efficiency in the field. Every Intelligence Officer recruited under these conditions has been informed that, for the benefit of the organization, he would be required to learn the language concerned to the best of his ability. This stipulation was made in full knowledge of the fact that language proficiency is essential to maximum efficiency in the conduct of field operations.

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3. [] began taking Italian language lessons at the Berlitz School before entering on duty with OSO, and took another course at the same school after his employment here, at no cost to this organization. [] thus departed for [] some knowledge of [] but required much additional study before he could successfully deal with []-speaking agents who know little or no English; in his dealings with these agents, [] is not only required to direct and guide their activities, but also to screen, process and sometimes translate the written information produced by them, for which duties a fluent knowledge of the language is essential.

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4. The estimated cost per month for [] language instruction is [] which, at the present rate of exchange, is less than \$7.00.

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5. Inasmuch as language fluency is essential to the satisfactory completion of [] mission, and since such fluency is in the basic interest of this organization, it is felt that your approval of []

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